

A59WX

U R G E N T

PRECEDER NEW YORK CUBA BUILDUP (A23)
WASHINGTON, JAN. 23 (AP)--SEN. WAYNE MORSE, D-ORE., TODAY ORDERED AN IMMEDIATE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO REPORTS OF AN EXTENSIVE NEW SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP IN CUBA.

MORSE TOLD A REPORTER HE IS ASKING THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE A QUICK BRIEFING FOR THE SENATE LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN.

THE STAFF OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, OF WHICH MORSE'S GROUP IS A UNIT, WAS INSTRUCTED TO TRY TO SET UP A BRIEFING AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, PREFERABLY TOMORROW.

MORSE ACTED AFTER THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE REPORTED SOVIET FORCES IN CUBA ARE WORKING 24 HOURS A DAY BUILDING AND IMPROVING "HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED GROUND AND AIR DEFENSES."

THE STORY SAID PRIVATE REPORTS FROM HAVANA, CONFIRMED IN PART BY AMERICAN EXPERTS, RELATE THAT LARGE SOVIET SHIPMENTS OF WEAPONS AND OTHER MATERIALS ARE CONTINUING TO ARRIVE IN CUBA.

"I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT," SAID MORSE, "BUT I'LL CERTAINLY PROCEED TO LEARN ALL I CAN."

"MY FIRST STEP IS TO CALL THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR AN IMMEDIATE BRIEFING TO LEARN WHAT OUR INTELLIGENCE SHOWS. I'D LIKE TO HAVE IT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY TOMORROW."

_EG446PES

A73WX (ADD CUBA) (AX FW)

(150)

WASHINGTON--FIRST ADD PRECEDE NEW YORK CUBA (A59WX) X X TOMORROW.
SEN. KENNETH B. KEATING, R-N. Y., TOLD A REPORTER HE HAS INFORMATION "CONFIRMED BY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES," THAT SOVIET WEAPONRY HAS BEEN POURING INTO THE ISLAND.

"THEY NOW ARE 10 TIMES STRONGER THAN THEY WERE ON JULY 1 LAST YEAR," KEATING SAID.

"MY INFORMATION IS THAT THEY (SOVIETS) HAVE 20,000 MEN IN CUBA, INCLUDING SOLDIERS AND TECHNICIANS. THE FORCE INCLUDES COMBAT TROOPS."

KEATING SAID THE WEAPONRY INCLUDES MIG FIGHTER PLANES "CAPABLE OF CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS," AND THAT THE PLANES HAVE A RANGE THAT COULD COVER MANY TARGET AREAS IN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA.

"I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS," KEATING SAID. "I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY DON'T, EITHER. I DO SAY THEY ARE CAPABLE OF CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

HE SAID THE SAME ALSO HOLDS TRUE OF TORPEDO BOATS HE REPORTED THE SOVIETS HAVE SENT TO CUBA--THESE COULD FIRE "RELATIVELY SMALL BUT DEVASTATING NUCLEAR WEAPONS" BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED WHETHER SUCH WEAPONS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.

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